

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, claims 1, 9, and 17 being independent. Claims 17, 19, and 20 have been amended.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112-second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has alleged that the alternative language "and/or" in claims 17, 19, and 20 is vague and indefinite. In reply, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to amended claims 17, 19 and 20, removing "and/or." Although an alternative expression, "or," remains in claims 19 and 20, Applicants note that alternative expressions are not inherently indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; MPEP §2173.05(h).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112-second paragraph.

Prior Art Rejections

1. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) based on *Asano et al.*

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Asano et al.* (E.P. Patent No. 0636863). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a navigational device having a route searching means, a route guiding means, and a display means. The display means displays the distances to each

intersection, calculated by the route guiding means, and displays the name of each intersection.

Claim 9 is a method claim, reciting functional features of similar scope to those recited in claim 1.

The Examiner relies on *Asano* as allegedly showing all the elements of claims 1-16 (Office Action pgs. 2-3). The Examiner alleges that Figure 7B of *Asano* shows the calculation of the distances between the present position and each road (Office Action, pgs. 3-4). As stated in the previous response, however, *Asano* clearly fails to show the distance between the present position and each intersection. *Asano* states in reference to Figure 7B:

Fig. 7(b) that the distance from the present position mark to the next branching point mark is "0.1 K" and that the distance from the branching point to the next branching point is "0.3K" (col. 8, ll. 56-58; col. 9, ll.1-2).

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Asano* provides the distance between the present position and the next branch point, then between branch points, not between the present position and the second branch point.

In *Asano*, the user must perform an additional mental calculation to determine the distance between his present position and any additional road ahead beyond the first road. This takes away from the time the driver could be using for other driving activities. The present invention frees up the time associated with such a mental calculation allowing more time for the driver to use, by providing the distance from the present position to the plurality of intersections on the route. For example, for a route as shown in Fig. A (Appendix), information as shown in Fig. B is displayed in the navigation system of *Asano*, whereas information represented by the illustration of Fig. C is displayed in the navigation device of the present invention.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)(M.P.E.P. 2131). For reasons stated above applicants assert that all of the elements of claims 1 and 9 are not set forth in the embodiment shown in *Asano* and, thus, *Asano* fails to anticipate claims 1 and 9. Since claims 2-8, and 10-16 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1 and 9, claims 2-8, and 10-16 are allowable at least for the reasons generally expressed above with respect to claims 1 and 9.

Additionally, since *Asano* neglects to mention a need for the distance from the present position to the branching routes, *Asano* fails to teach or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the arrangement of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on *Asano*.

Request for Interview

If the Examiner maintains the rejection of the pending claim, Applicants request an interview to discuss overcoming the Examiner's rejection.

Conclusion

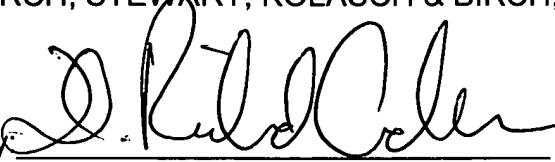
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the formal objections and rejections to the claims, and the rejections based on prior art. Because all claims are believed to define over prior art of record, Applicants respectfully request an early indication of allowability.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made
Appendix



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

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17. (Amended) A navigation device comprising:

a route searching device, which searches a route from a present position to a destination;

a route guiding device, which extracts intersections, and intersection names identifying information for such intersections, and/or landmarks near the intersections, existing on the route and calculates the distances from the present position to the intersections; and

a display device, which displays the route, intersections, names identifying information for such intersections, and distances.

19.

(Amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein

said display device further displays landmarks on the map and identifies the landmarks by predetermined symbols and/or or names.

20.

(Amended) The device according to claim 19, wherein

said display device further displays traffic control identifiers, such as traffic lights, on the map and identifies the identifiers by predetermined symbols or names and/or names.